Postmortem Intravascular Gas Caused by Antemortem Bacterial Sepsis

Fumihiro Kitano¹, Kazuyuki Kinoshita²,³, Sakon Noriki³,⁵ and Kunihiro Inai⁴,⁵

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In diabetic patients, septicemia with intravascular gas and liver abscess with intrahepatic gas occur at rates of 4% and 16%, respectively, being mainly induced by E. coli, Clostridium, and Klebsiella (1). We herein report the gas images of postmortem computed tomography (autopsy imaging [Ai]) due to antemortem bacterial sepsis. A 69-year-old diabetic man with advanced gastric cancer had developed a high fever for several days prior to death. No resuscitation was performed. Ai performed two hours after death revealed...
the accumulation of gas in the liver (A), right atrium (B), and arteries (C). All bacterial cultures from the liver abscess and blood samples in the right atrium and aorta at the autopsy showed *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae* and *E. faecalis*. Autopsies rarely recognize the existence of intravascular gas. All findings of intravascular gas among in-hospital deaths may be the result of not only putrefaction and resuscitation (2) but newly observed bacterial sepsis.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

**Contributors**

F. Kitano, S. Noriki, and K. Inai autopsied the case and F. K. wrote the manuscript. K. Kinoshita diagnosed the postmortem CT imaging. K. Inai also contributed to bacterial culture and this article guarantor. We declare that this manuscript is original, has not been published before and is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere.

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**References**


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